

CPG Kurdistan – International Women’s day 27th March 2018

Attending: Ruth Maguire MSP, John Finnie MSP, Linda Fabiani MSP, Clare Haughey MSP, Roza Sallih SSK

Co-convenor Ruth Maguire welcomed MSP colleagues and members of the Kurdish community to the parliament and introduced the evening marking International Womens day with the theme “Press for Progress” and speakers for the evening Dilber Yosef, a member of the legislative council of the Kobani canton and co-ordinator of the women’s council of Kobani in Rojava, Syria (who joined us via Skype); Miss D, who arrived in Scotland at a young age from Northern Kurdistan, and is currently studying law at Edinburgh University; and Roza Salih, who arrived in Scotland as a refugee in 2002 from the Kurdistan region of Iraq and is one of the Glasgow Girls.

The talks covered diverse topics, from the ongoing Turkish invasion of Afrin, to the Turkish state’s history of brutal violence and violation of Kurdish human rights, and the fate of the imprisoned HDP MPs and Kurdish artists such as Zehra Dogan.

In an emotional and charged discussion session following the talks, members of the Kurdish community – many of them in Scotland as refugees – used the opportunity to share their thoughts and stories with MSPs and to ask for their help to raise awareness of the plight of the Kurds.

Meeting Closed 8pm

Date of next meeting TBC